

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00481 201144Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 CU-02 IO-10 OC-05 SCCT-01

AID-05 CCO-00 FBO-02 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NIC-01

NSC-05 SP-02 OPR-01 PA-01 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01

SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-04 /088 W

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O R 201045Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7032

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USCINCEUR

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST BRITISH EMBASSY

REF: ATHENS 478

1. SUMMARY: GROUND FLOOR OF BRITISH EMBASSY AND ONE
AUTOMOBILE AND SCOOTER WERE DAMAGED IN DEMONSTRATION
JANUARY 18. GOG ISSUED STATEMENT LATER IN DAY CONDEMNING VIOLENCE
AND ASSERTING THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT IS TAKING ALL MEASURES
TO HANDLE CYPRUS ISSUE RESPONSIBLY. END SUMMARY.

2. BRITISH EMBOFF REPORTS DAMAGE DONE IN JANUARY 18
DEMONSTRATION AT EMBASSY IS ABOUT \$100,000. AMOUNT IS
SAME AS IN SIMILAR INSTANCE LAST JULY
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 00481 201144Z

(ATHENS 4873, 1974) ALTHOUGH THIS ROUND

CONSIDERABLY MORE DAMAGE DONE TO BUILDING, INCLUDING WATER DAMAGE FROM EXTENSIVE USE OF FIRE HOSES, AND LESS TO AUTOMOBILES WITHIN COMPOUND. DEMONSTRATORS PEAKING AT ABOUT 3,000 TWICE INVADED EMBASSY ON SATURDAY. ALMOST ALL DAMAGE DONE BY FIRST WAVE ABOUT NOON. THIS GROUP LED BY GREEK CYPRIOT STUDENTS AND EMBOFF UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN ANY PARTICULAR POLITICAL CAST, ASSUMING BOTH EOKA-B RIGHTISTS AND LEFTISTS PARTICIPATED. SATURDAY EVENING ASSULT WAS, HOWEVER, MARXIST-ORIENTED IN PLACARDS AND CHANTS.

3. BRITISH COLLEAGUE VERY BITTER OVER ATTITUDE OF GREEK AUTHORITIES WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "HOSTILE" THROUGHOUT SATURDAY. HIS VIEW IS THAT AMPLE ADVANCE WARNING GIVEN OF NOON DEMONSTRATION AND POLICE COULD HAVE CURBED DAMAGE IF DESIRED. GOG SPOKESMAN LAMBRIAS IN BACKGROUND BRIEFING TO FOREIGN PRESS AFTER NOON INCIDENT SAID POLICE SHOULD NOT BE BLAMED BECAUSE THEIR NUMBERS TOO FEW TO HOLD BACK DEMONSTRATORS. ASKED WHY AMERICAN EMBASSY HAD NEVER BEEN DAMAGED NOTWITHSTANDING MORE FREQUENT AND ALRGER DEMONSTRATIONS, LAMBRIAS SAID GOG HAS ALWAYS HAD MORE ADVANCED WARNING REGARDING POSSIBLE INCIDENTS AT AMERICAN EMBASSY, "A MORE OBVIOUS TARGET", AND BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION IS EASIER TO PROTECT.

4. LATE JANUARY 18 GOG SPOKESMAN SAID: "ANY ACT OF VIOLENCE IS UNACCEPTABLE, NO MATTER HOW STRONG THE FEELING OF INDIGNATION THAT GIVES RISE TO IT MAY BE. IN ADDITION, IT IS DANGEROUS TO PUBLIC ORDER AND SERVES NO PURPOSE BUT, ON THE CONTRARY, HARMS THE INTERESTS OF OUR BRETHERN. THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH SUPPORTS THE STRUGGLE OF CYPRUS TO FACE THE INJUSTICE AGAINST IT, IS TAKING ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO HANDLE THE ISSUE RESPONSIBLY. DEMONSTRATIONS, THEREFORE, WHICH MAY EASILY BE TURNED INTO RIOTS BY FRIVOLOUS PERSONS OR OTHER SUSPICIOUS ELEMENTS, AND WHICH FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO APPLY THE LAW TO PREVENT ANY DISTURBANCE OF PEACE AND ORDER, ARE USELESS."

5. YOUTHFUL DEMONSTRATORS CONTINUE VIGIL NEAR BRITISH EMBASSY WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENTS EXCEPT TO SLOW TRAFFIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 00481 201144Z

FOR PROPAGANDA HANDOUTS.
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